

November Update

I would like to begin this communication by expressing sincere thanks to the parents in J4Y who were able to attend the lunch with their son/daughter last Thursday. It was lovely to welcome you into KGS to experience our wonderful school lunch. The positive feedback to our catering team was well received, and I know from those who I spoke with that you valued this opportunity to spend time with your child. In January 2023, we will be extending this lunchtime invite to our parents in J4X. Over the course of the academic year, I do hope to invite every parent across all year groups in for this experience.

Many of you have now had the opportunity to meet my new PA, Mrs Marie Blake; she has been very touched by the warm welcome that she has received. I know that she already feels part of our very special KGS community. Should you need to contact the School Office you may continue to contact our School Secretary, Miss Kilburn on 01772 673222/c.kilburn@kirkhamgrammarjnr.co.uk or for anything intended for me, such as a planned absence, for example, Mrs Blake can be contacted on m.blake@kirkhamgrammarjnr.co.uk.

School Events

There are many exciting events organised in the lead up to the end of term for our pupils and families; including the Friends of KGS (FKGS) Christmas Fair this Friday, and the Junior Christmas Celebration and Infant and Pre-School Christmas Production next week. The postcard invites were sent home with your child last week; please do contact Mrs Blake should you be able to attend. Both of these events will be recorded and live-streamed.

I know that our pupils always look forward to the annual Christmas Jumper/Party Day, our Elf Run, and we are now very excited to announce that I1 to J4 will be visiting The Lowther Pavilion Theatre on Thursday 15 December to watch the pantomime Cinderella. Further details will follow with regards to this event later this week. Our Pre-School and I1 pupils are also expecting a visit from Father Christmas himself during the last week of term. As is customary on the last day of term, the pupils will enjoy a traditional toy morning, where they can bring in a toy or board game of their choice to play with their friends. We kindly ask that pupils avoid bringing in electronic or expensive items, please.

The children have been particularly enthralled with the author visits from The Supervet, Noel Fitzpatrick and, more recently, Rachel Walmsley, with our J1 – J4 pupils enjoying their lunch over in the Senior School too. Our J3 and J4 pupils also took great delight in experiencing the Senior School performance of Peter Pan. I am sure that this gave them the vital opportunity to see what lies ahead for them when they move to our Senior School.

Next term, the FKGS will host our first KGS disco since Covid. We have taken the decision to include an Infant disco as well as a Junior disco this time. I know the pupils I have spoken with about it are thrilled to hear that this will be returning. The School production in May 2023 is also beginning to be planned, with our J4 pupils taking the lead parts, accompanied by our J1 to J3 pupils in a variety of roles.

Our J2 pupils recently experienced their first KGS residential at Castle Head. I was so proud of the incredible feedback from the staff at the centre, as well as from our KGS staff, in relation to their good manners, positive approach and the curiosity and resilience they demonstrated throughout. The next residential experience is for our J4 pupils in May 2023; I know that our J4 pupils are already counting down the days for this special adventure. This will be a memorable experience for them to *almost* conclude their time in the Junior, Infant and Pre-School. Please note that the reply slip for this trip should be returned to the Class Teacher by this Thursday. If you have misplaced the letter, please do contact the School Office in order to request a copy.

Morning Registration

Now that our pupils have all established good routines, please could I make a plea from the School Office, that pupils arrive just prior to 8.45 am? It is imperative that we quickly ascertain the whereabouts of our pupils first thing in the morning, as our registers need to be taken at 8.45 am prompt and closed at 8.50 am. Please note that the playground door will be closed at the appointed time of 8.45 in order to facilitate this; this is simply to ensure that our registers are completed on time and that all of our pupils are accounted for.

We do understand that, on occasion, your child may arrive after 8.45 am. Should this happen, please do not worry; simply ensure that they enter through the School Office entrance, where they will need to give their name and form so that they can be signed in accurately on our registers. Thank you for your understanding in relation to this.

I know that many of you enjoyed the extended weekend in various fabulous locations. I have already heard many delightful stories of pupils' encounters and experiences over the last few days. I look forward to seeing many of you in person at the FKGS Christmas Fair this Friday and next week at our festive events.

With best wishes.

Mrs K O'Donoghue
Headmistress